

Country Report -Liechtenstein-

Liechtenstein is tiny landlocked country, between Austria and Switzerland. Since, Liechtenstein lack its political or military power, it has sought to preserve its independence over the past 200 years through membership in communities governed by international law. International cooperation and integration in such communities has been a constant feature of Liechtenstein foreign policy, with the goal of securing the sovereignty and international recognition of the country. International solidarity is an important priority for Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein is accessioned to the Confederation of the Rhine in 1806, to the German Confederation in 1815, the conclusion of bilateral customs and currency agreements with the Danube Monarchy in 1852, and signing of the Customs Treaty with Switzerland in 1923. joined the Statute of the International Court of justice in 1950, signed Helsinki Final Act of the CSCE(OSCE now) with 34 other states in 1975, joined the Council of Europe in 1978, admitted to the UN in 1990, joined European Free Trade Association (EFTA), as a full member in 1991, has been a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), since 1995. According to ESA, Liechtenstein's current implementation rate is 99.4%.

Their education system starts with optional kindergarten, which children with age of five to seven go. Then, five years of compulsory elementary school. Secondary school is divided in to three parts; Oberschule, and Realschule, or vocational, where children learn something related to occupation, or university preparatory education. The third choice is Gymnasium, eight-year program to prepare students for university education, with more focus on either classics and humanities, or economics and mathematics. Their literacy rate is 100%.

Since 1950s, Liechtenstein rapidly developed from agricultural states to modern industrial nation, In 2005, only 130 farmers are still active. In 1950s, there were 1300 agricultural operation, which cultivated an area of less than five hectares. Then in 1990s, there were still 400 of them. Now fewer but more efficient and modern operations replaced the many small operations. The agricultural sector doesn't play an important role as a employer anymore, I 2007, only 1 % of all employees work in agriculture or garden.

By giving help, money to the people with low income, they are combatting poverty; there are only 7.9% of them.

Their environmental impact assessment (EIA) rules are much stricter than relevant international agreements, which Liechtenstein is a party. Existing laws have served to secure high level of environmental protection. The government seeks to balance social, economic, and environmental issues.

Liechtenstein makes regular contribution to international organization with humanitarian or development-policy objectives. Most of its contribution is used for those issues.